

The DX Bulletin

America's Premier Weekly Amateur Radio Publication

SPECIAL REPORT

The SP DX Club
by Henryk Cichocki

The SPDXC was founded in June 1959 by a small group of Polish hams particularly interested in DX contacts.

The principles laid down for the SPDXC Club membership were similar to those for the DXCC Award. These principles remain unchanged over more than 28 years and are as follows:

An applicant must show to the secretary at least 75 QSL confirmations to become a candidate, and at least 101 QSL confirmations to become a regular club member. For contact confirmations the DXCC countries list is valid. Fair play and good sportsmanship in operating are required by all SPDXC Club candidates and members. The term of candidacy remains a minimum of 6 months counted from the publication of the candidate's name and call sign in the SPDXC Club's Bulletin. During this term the candidate has to obtain positive opinions and recommendations from at least two regular SPDXC Club members. If during this time no objections relative to poor operating ethics arrive, the candidate will obtain an award certifying his regular membership in the SPDXC Club.

At present time over 400 SP amateurs have become regular members of the SPDXC. This membership is available only for individual SP's, not for club stations.

Foreign licensed radio amateurs and SWLs (other than SP) may obtain the so-called "honorary membership" of SPDXC Club. A condition for the honorary membership is having confirmed two-way communication with 15 (for European applicants) or with 10 (for DX applicants) regular SPDXC Club members. Up until Sept. 30, 1987, a number of 2136 foreign stations from 126 countries and 388 SWL's have got the SPDXC Award obtaining the honorary membership.

During the 28 years the SPDXC Club has animated the Polish DX sport and led to high achievements at international level. 15 club members have obtained over 300 countries confirmed, 166 members have obtained between 200 and 300 countries confirmed.

Many of them are holders of the DXCC Award, several the 5BDXCC and seven hams are on the list of Honor Roll DXCC in the June, 1987, issue of QST. The "King" is Ted, SP7HT, with 316/399 countries.

For more than 20 years the SPDXC Club has been the direct organizer of the well known SP DX Contest. This contest is a good opportunity to meet many SP station on the bands and to gain requirements for several SP awards, among them - the SPDXC Award mentioned above.

From the very beginning of its existence the SPDXC Club has overtaken the management of a specific long-term competition called "SPDX Marathon" SPDXM, which arose in SP in 1955/56. The SPDXM is based on the following scoring: Every country confirmed on each of the 5 HF bands counts for 1 point; every CQ Zone on each of the 5 bands counts 15 points. The total score of the competitor is the sum of points obtained for countries and zones on all 5 HF bands. To imagine the value of this long-term competition let us cite an example: the 5BDXCC yields $5 \times 100 = 500$ points for the SPDXM; the 5BWAZ yields $5 \times 40 \times 15 = 3000$ points. Somebody who has got both, the 5BDXCC and 5BWAZ together, has gained automatically 3500 points for the SPDXM. But this is not yet the top score in this competition. The actual table of SPDXM of June 1987 (updated every 3 months in the year) shows 24 SP's having got more than 3500 points, and 7 SP's having got more than 4000 points!

To keep his call sign on the SPDXM list the amateur has to announce endorsements to the SPDXM Manager at least once per 3 years, otherwise his call sign will be deleted off the list.

Please note that the rules of the SPDXM include in itself the ideas of the 5BDXCC and 5BWAZ together and that this kind of competition was introduced in Poland over a dozen years before the 5BDXCC and the 5BWAZ arose.

[The SPDXC Club awards manager is W. Klosok SP9PT, Box 131, 44-201 Rybnik, Poland.]



From left: Mr. Wang Xun, Deputy Secretary General, Chinese Radio Sport Association; Mr. Tong Xiao-Yong, Director, BY1PK; Mr. Liu Wen-Bin, Secretary, Chinese Radio Sport Association, at US Senate station [K3ZJ].

AWARDS

DX Awards for 1987 Contacts

Part 1

Ted Melinosky K1BV

Many awards are time sensitive, that is, they require contacts be made during a particular anniversary or commemorative period. Such awards are not generally included in published Directories because they are only temporary in nature. Instead, sponsoring groups try to get publicity from magazines and newsletters, such as *The DX Bulletin*, plus, of course, the use of the paper flimsies attached to the QSL cards of members. Here's the first installment of those I have been able to find that require earning of the award by 1987 contacts. The year is over, and you might have a few of these in your collections. Write me with any 1988 awards data.

CANADA. 30th Anniversary Windsor (Ontario) ARC. Contact stations from 1 Sept 86 to 31 Aug 87. Earn 30 points as follows: VE3's: contact VE3OW = 15 points; any WARC member = 5 or any VE3 = 1. All others; contact VE3OW = 15 points; any WARC member = 10 and any VE3 = 5. One contact must be with a WARC member. No repeater contacts. GCR list and \$1 Canadian or equivalent to: Windsor ARC, PO Box 1322, Windsor, Ontario, Canada N8W 2K1.

DENMARK. EDR 60 Jubilee Award. In 1987, the EDR celebrated its 60th Anniversary. For the award, you need 60 points from OZ contacts 1 Jan to 31 Dec 87. Each OZ counts 1 point, club stations count 5. All bands and modes may be used. No repeater contacts. GCR list and 6 IRC's to: Allis Andersen OZ1ACB, Kagsaavej 34, DK-2730 Herlev, Denmark. (Note: club stations include the suffixes EDR and HAM.)

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. 750 Years Berlin. To commemorate the 750th Anniversary of the founding of this great city, contacts made with resident Y2 stations will count for a special award. Contact GDR Berlin stations for a total of 750 points as follows: Any Y_ ending in 0 = 20 points; any Y_ ending in BER (special suffix) counts 40 points; any Y750 prefixed station will count for 100 points. These point values are for Y2 applicants; Europeans should double the values and all others multiply them by 4. (A USA station contacting Y29BER can thus count 160 points towards the award.) GCR log and 5 IRC's to: Y2 Award Bureau, PO Box 30, Berlin 1055, GDR.

LUXEMBOURG. RL 50 Jubilee Award. Offered by Réseau Luxembourgeois de Amateurs d'Ondes Courtes to commemorate its 50th anniversary in 1987. Contact LX stations between 1 Jan and 31 Dec 1987. European hams need 10 points, DX need 5. A contact with each LX counts 1 point. A contact with LX0RL or LX50RL counts 5 points. Each LX may be counted only once per band. GCR list of contacts and 5 IRC's or \$2US before 31 July 1988 to: Awards Manager, RL, PO Box 1352, L-1013, Luxembourg.

[Ted publishes the K1BV DX Awards Directory, which contains information on nearly 700 awards from 73 countries. The Directory is available from Ted for \$14.35 for stateside DXers, US \$13.75 for DX award hunter (surface mail) of US \$16.75 for DX air mail. Write Ted at 525 Foster Street, Suite 1001, South Windsor CT 06074 USA.]

Liechtenstein DXpedition

HB0/YT3AM

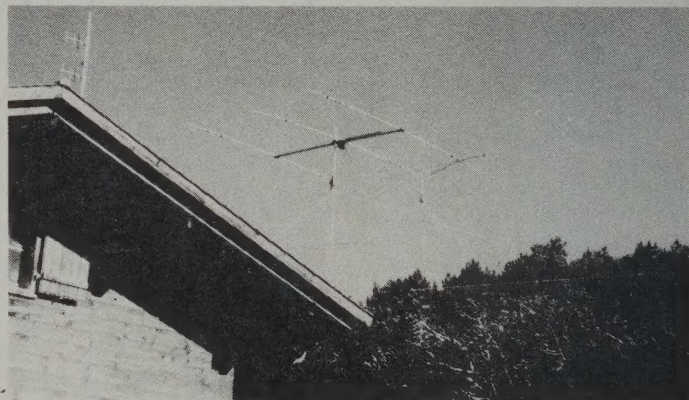
by Slavko Celarc YU3BQ

We decided to go to Liechtenstein for this DXpedition, because it is not so far away, so we could drive there. The operator included: YT3AM (leader), YU3JW, YU3GO, YU3XU, YT3BMD, YT3NA, YT3BEN, and YU3BQ.

On August 15, we travelled for 12 hours with two cars and a trailer, to Sareiserjoch, near Malbun, in Liechtenstein. The location is at 2015 meters above sea level, and it is very fine for amateur radio. The house is fully equipped with all comforts and electricity, and you can get there by ski-lift.

We worked on all HF bands: 1.8, 3.5, 7, 10, 14, 21, and 28 MHz. Equipment were Kenwood rigs: TS440, TS530, and TS830, and the amplifiers were an SB220 and a FL2277. For antenna we used: wire on 160, delta loop on 80, 18avt vertical on 40, and TH3Mk3 for other bands.

From time to time there was very good DX-conditions on 7 and 14 MHz, but unfortunately on other bands conditions weren't as good. On 160 we had a poor antenna, so we couldn't work much DX; the only one was K2EK. On 40 meters, conditions were solid, so we made many QSOs with USA and JA. Also on 20 meters, there were many contacts all over the world. Final score on HF was: 11,800 QSOs and 153 countries worked, during the 10 days of operation.



Some of the HB0/YT3AM antennas in August, 1987.

We were also very active on VHF, UHF, and SHF bands: 144, 432, 1296 MHz, and 10 GHz. Almost all these contacts we made from Augsburg, which is a mountain 2359 meters high. We used following equipments: on 144 MHz the rig was a TR751M, feeding a 100 watt linear amp. into a 16 element TONA. On 432 MHz we used an IC402, again with a 100 watt linear amp, and a 23 element Yagi. On 1296 MHz gear consisted of an IC202 and an LT23 into an 15 element Yagi. On 10 GHz the lineup included an FT290 feeding a 1-watt transverter, with a 30 cm dish for the antenna. The mountain location was really ufb, and we made 1300 QSO's on 2 m (82 loc. squares and 18 countries.) There was a lot of DX, even from North Europe. On other bands we made: 185 QSO's and 36 loc. squares on 432 MHz, and 36 QSO's on 1296 MHz. We were only QRV on 10 GHz on our last day, and then only thanks to equipment from DF5IE, and we made a mere 5 contacts. Interesting contacts included: first HB0-YU QSO on 432 MHz and first HB0-I QSO on 1296 MHz.

Final score of DXpedition was 13,300 contacts in 200 hours of operation.

We are very happy with results of expedition because that was the first time for each of us to be in a DXpedition. We are happy if we give a new country for somebody. QSL cards are being printed and will be in your homes soon. QSL via YU3HAM Callbook address.

The DX Bulletin

CHOD HARRIS VP2ML, EDITOR

816 FOURTH STREET, SUITE 1001
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404

November 11, 1987

Fred Laun K3ZO
5801 Huntland Road
Temple Hills MD 20748

Dear Fred:

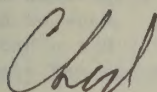
Congratulations on your promotion to Gentleman DXer. I guess not being able to operate from YN was too much for you.

If you have any space time in the SF area, and would like to see a little of the wine country, please let me know. My towers are still on order, but I do have a spare room.

Okay on YN3CC; that's exactly the type of DXer I was seeking for the "scholarship."

Good luck on your retirement.

73,



Chod

EQUIPMENT NOTES

Dear The DX Bulletin:

I vaguely remember a request for information about service problems and help from Ham radio companies in one of your recent issues. Let me tell you a little story about a recent, and pleasant experience with ICOM of America.

About 3 months ago, right after the ICOM 761 came out, I sold my old and reliable 751 to a friend, and coughed up the rather large amount of money for the new radio. In retrospect, I violated one of my rules about ham gear: "Don't be the first kid on the block to buy a newly released radio!" After a few days, it became apparent that the 761 was losing it's mind as far as the digital display reading out garbage, or erroneous frequencies on power up. It also performed flawlessly on receive and transmit - seeming much better than the old 751. I spoke to the people at AES (Clearwater), and they let me return the unit, and try another one which had the same problems in its CPU and display functions. They contacted ICOM in Washington, and someone there said they had never heard of this problem with a 761, but would look into it. I tried another new 761 and it had the same problems.

Next, ICOM admitted that there might be a problem like this in the 761 - and suggested a fix by replacing a few capacitors on the logic board, and a voltage regulator. This made the problem even worse. Finally, ICOM admitted that "all" the 761's they had received had this problem. They said a new fix (a new board) was on the way from Japan.

Before the board arrived, I got a call from a gentleman at ICOM telling me they had shipped me a new 761 from Washington that worked the way it was supposed to work. It arrived by UPS Blue label two days later - and I'm happy to say has performed flawlessly for about a month now.

I mention this to you because you advertise "the Dawn of a new era" ICOM ad in the bulletin - and that may well be, if the 761 that I ended up with continues to do its thing. Also, I was extremely impressed with ICOM's approach to my problem (and indirectly AES's), after it became apparent that there was a problem in the first "batch" of 761's.

(s) Robert A Turkel KD4S

Dear The DX Bulletin:

Some people seem to have had disappointing experiences with the Kenwood Service Department. I would like to relate my contact with them some time ago.

After nearly a year of trouble-free operation, my TS940 developed a number of faults. The micro-processor went crazy, the antenna tuner gave up, and the transmit audio went intermittent.

Since the transceiver was near the end of its warranty, I decided to box it up and send it back to the service department. Meanwhile, I set up my backup equipment for the duration.

I was pleasantly surprised when eleven days later it was returned to me by brown tag United Parcel, with all faults corrected. All work was performed under warranty, even though I had made a number of modifications to it, which I pointed out to them. Considering that UPS requires three days time each way from PA to CA [at least -ed.], and one weekend during which they do not work, I figure Kenwood had the equipment three days.

This in my way of thinking is excellent turnaround time and should not go unnoticed.

(s) Larry Flavin W3CV

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*****
*   Madison Electronics Specials for TDXB Readers   *
*               Coaxial Cable:                       *
*   Belden 9913                      $0.42/foot      *
*   Belden 8214 RG8 Foam             0.39/foot      *
*   Belden 8267 RG213                0.49/foot      *
*               (100 foot multiples only)            *
*               Connectors                            *
*   Amphenol PL259-831SP             $1.00 each     *
*   Amphenol 8261 N Male              3.00 each     *
*   Fox 9913 Type-N Male              3.00 each     *
*               KLM Products: Cost + 10%             *
*   Contact Don Busick at Madison Electronics,      *
*   3621 Fannin, Houston TX 77004 (713) 520-7300    *
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The Transpolar SkiTrek USSR/Canada 1988

In February, 1988, a joint Soviet-Canadian expedition will leave the Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago (AS-42) to cross the north Pole to Canada by ski. The trip will end at Cape Columbia on Ellesmere Island (NA-08), a distance of some 2,000 kilometers, and will take 90-100 days.

Team members, Soviet and Canadian, will carry all the necessary equipment in their rucksacks, including food, a tent, sleeping bags, pneumatic dinghy-boats, radio and navigational equipment for carrying out the scientific experiments and observations in the fields of medicine and geophysics.

There will be six planned air drops, with no landing, except in case of emergency.

The Canadian Radio Relay League, Inc., representing Canadian amateur radio operators, has agreed to act as the expedition coordinator for all amateur communications, to and from Canada, in support of this important expedition, which is a unique example of international cooperation.

To our knowledge, it represents the first time that amateur radio has been used to provide basic radio communications for an undertaking of this magnitude.

Any help and cooperation that you are able to provide in support of the activities of the Canadian Radio Relay League will be greatly appreciated. Please contact CARL President Thomas B.J. Atkins, VE3CDM, 55 Havenbrook Boulevard, Willowdale, Ontario M2J 1A7, (416) 494-8721, for further information.

(s) Paul Weinzwieg

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